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WRITTEN IN **ASHES**

By Crittenden Marriott

Come to me. I must see you. KATE. The words on the telegraph blank danced before Frank Howard's eyes, keeping tune to the joyful throbbing of his heartstrings. "Come to me," he echoed gleefully. "That means yes, of course. Talk about luck! Let's see! It's 8 o'clock now; if I can catch the 9 o'clock train I ought to get there by tomorrow noon."

"Yes, sah, Miss Mason's in, sah, Walk right in, sah." The old colored man drew aside the thick portieres that hung in the doorway and admitted Frank to the parlor. The voices of both had been low and the man's footsteps made no sound on the soft | seif. 1-1-oh, it's hard to tell you this, carpet as he advanced into the room- but it is my only excuse; I thought advanced so silently that a girl, stand-

Frank halted and gazed at her with devouring eyes. There she stood, she forgive me, won't you, Mr. Howard, Sundays, up to and including all trains whom he had come a thousand miles to see. She had sent for him and he had come. Henceforth she was his

Suddenly a muffled sob reached his ear. "Oh. Frank," came a murmur, "I've lost you; lost you!"

Half smiling, half grieving, the man started forward. "Oh, no, Kate," he With a startled cry the girl swung

exclaimed. "Oh! Oh! I-I beg to the other and took her in her arms. your pardon. You-you startled me. When-when did you arrive?"

"This minute. Old Tom let me in. I-I couldn't help hearing what you said. Oh, Kate"-

gentleman you will forget everything for you at once." you heard. Oh, I can't stand it! I she tried to rush from the room.

est thing I ever heard. But"-

care for me at all? I hoped when you blazed in the grate, "I telegraphed you! I didn't! I

didn't! What do you mean?" taken advantage of it to mock him. "It | crumbled away to ashes, was a cruel trick," he continued bitter ly; "a cruel trick."

"Trick!" echoed the girl, her eyes half blinded with scalding tears, which she tried desperately to crush back. "It was no trick. Kate telegraphed you, of course. Who else?"

"Kate? What Kate?" "What Kate! My cousin, Kate

Breck, of course." "Kate Breck! What in God's name had she to do answering my letter to

"To me?" The girl faltered, and her cheek changed suddenly from red to white. "To me?" she whispered again. "To me? Oh." With a gesture of despair she buried her face in her

With a single step, Frank was by her side and had grasped her roughly in his arms. "Yes," he cried. "Yes, to you. To you, whom I have loved ever since the first minute I saw you. To you, who have been my star of hope for more than a year. To you, of whom I have thought, for whom I have tolled, for whom I have- Oh, how could there be any mistake about it? 1

"Your letter was addressed to Kate Breck," sobbed the girl.

"It couldn't have been," insisted the UP-TO-DATE, CLEAN AND WELL FURNISHED ROOMS AND PLENTY man, pressing the yielding form closer and closer. "I remembered the similarity of the names even when I was writing and took particular pains to make sure I addressed it to you-to you-to you. But it doesn't matter now-nothing matters now. My darling. I have surprised your secret. Forgive me for it, though God knows how happy it makes me. But I give you mine in exchange. I love you! I love

But the girl pushed him back, freeing

herself suddenly. "It is too late," she said hollowlytoo late. Your letter came to hate. and she accepted you. She loves you. Frank, almost as much as I do, I think, and she has accepted you. You must go through with it now. You will pretend-you will marry her?"

"Marry her! I will not! I'll do nothing so foolish. It was a mistake. I'll not ruin all our lives by pretending."

"But you must"-"There is no need," interrupted a voice. And Kate Breck, white to the lips, but with a spot of bright color blazing on her cheeks, stepped into the CARPENTER AND BUILDER parlor. "I owe you both an apology." she continued as the two faced her. "It wasn't my fault at first, but afterward. Your letter was addressed correctly, Mr. Howard, addressed to Kate Mason, but it was delivered to me by mistake with some other mail and was opened by me without noticing. You began 'Dear Kate,' and I had read it Furniture Repaired and Ren- nearly through before I realized that something was wrong and looked at the envelope. Then I saw what had Drop me a postal card whenever happened. My tirst impulse was to go straight to Kate. My second was to take advantage of your proposal to help me in a plan of my own. 1-I quarreled-with a friend of mine-the her day and wanted to revenge my

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that If I could make him think I was Via Atlantic Coast Line, on Account ing by the mantel, with her face rest- engaged to some one I would be even ing on her outflung arm, did not hear with him. So I telegraphed to you, Mr. Howard, and I hinted to him that-oh, you understand, don't you? You will daily thereafter, except Saturdays and dain.

set eyes, staring into the other's face | tickets December 1. J. S. Hartsell, as if they would read her very soul. Division Passenger Agent, Tampa, Fla. "Are you sure," she asked, "quite sure that-that the letter was really addressed to me?"

"Dear Kate," she murmured. Miss Breck freed herself gently, but

decidedly. "There, there," she exclaimed hurriedly. "I must go. I'll "You didn't. I didn't say anything. I've burned your envelope, I fear, but

Kate," he cried. "I'll forget it if you sank into a chair and pressed her hand the round trip. want me to, though it was the sweet- to her heart. Then, mastering her emotion with an effort, she drew a let-"Cease! Cease! You will drive me ter from her breast, hurriedly slipped the inclosure from it and threw the "Why so, Kate, darling? Don't you empty envelope into the open fire that la., got a fall on an icy walk last win-

softly, "goodby, goodby."

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of the Florida State Fair

Tickets on sale November 14, and scheduled to arrive in Tampa before The other girl had listened with wide noon of November 30. Final limit of

EVERY OUNCE YOU EAT

forgive me, won't you?" she ended the necessary tissue-building material fresh young heart, I"round. Then she threw up her hand, "Why-certainly," murmured Frank Cure is a perfect digestant. It digests Jack. but it poisons it. Kodol Dyspepsia "Gee, but you're crazy!" murmured fending him off. "Mr. Howard!" she awkwardly, while Kate went straight the food regardless of the condition of the stomach. It allows that organ to rest and get strong again. Relieves belching, heartburn, sour stomach, inget your letter for you. Kate. I've- Sold by the Anti-Monopoly Drugstore.

THE SEABOARD AIRLINE will sell nothing but a freshman after all."

As the last words tumbled from her tickets Nov. 14 and daily thereafter | Jack dug his oars viciously into the can't stand it." With a sudden turn lips the girl hurried from the parlor, except Saturdays and Sundays, up to water, splashing his own red jersey and, aided by the banisters, made her and including all trains scheduled to and Peggy's white sweater. But Frank intercepted her. "Kate, way to her room. Once there, she arrive in Tampa Nov. 30 at \$3.50 for "Strikes me you entered the same

HERB W. EDWARDS INJURED

Herb. W. Edwards of Des Moines, ter, spraining his wrist and bruising "Goodby, dear love," she murmured his knees. "The next day," he says, "they were so sore and stiff I was The fire caught the edge of the en- afraid I would have to stay in bed, did?" Instantly it flashed on Frank ment the address stood out. It read jain's Pain Balm and after a few apthat his letter must have fallen into the quite plainly, "Miss Kate Breck, First plications all soreness had disappearhands of some practical joker, who had street, Lexington, Ky." Then the whole ed." For sale by the Postoffice Drug-

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AFTER THE SQUALL

The lake lay smooth and dark like a

"Fit to give one the nightmare," Pegfully into the boat.

the reflection."

seif up in the stern of the boat. "I) you suppose I'm going to let the prospect of a mere squall spoil my first boat ride of the year? Besides, we both can swim, can't we?"

Jack stared at Peggy with what was intended for a look of withering dis-

"You bet, Peggy, if I thought there was any danger in this stunt I'd not

day I did. What time does that bloomin' matron say you'll have to be back?" "Six o'clock. Otherwise it's Peggy before the house committee, and the Botany club depends on me to get the lichens to them before 7," she answered, making herself into a still smaller ball in the stern seat. The boat

"Oh, we'll be back in time easy. "You didn't telegraph me! Then who velope and flamed up and for a mo-but I rubbed them well with Chamber- We'll reach the pines in half an hour." sky. "That wind is coming up, Jack," she said. "I guess I'il get out the extra oars and help."

"You'll do nothing of the sort," answered Jack. "It's not a girl's work." to herself and settled back in her place again. It was very still and sheltered smelled deliciously of spring, and the treetops. The pine trees murmured, robins flickered among the soft fuzz of the new needles. Suddenly Jack pulled

"Gee whiz," he said, "it's five min-

joke to be hauled up by the house comfor. They have been through all these scrapes and know how to strike hard." a heavy squall had grown out of the

against the delinquent Peggy. Jack looked out at the water with lips tight pressed. "Peggy," he said, "I'll not venture out with you with a sea like that one, house committee or no house committee."

"Peggy!" He threw back his shoulders and eyed Peggy with dignity. ed while I am around. I tell you I will

Peggy threw back her girlish shoullignity than his own.

"I'll not speak to you, Jack Howard, until you launch that boat." And with this she pulled her tam o' shanter down over her curly hair, walked back the edge of the pines and, sitting down in the needles, stared with marked indifference at the sky above Jack's

Jack stood irresolute for a moment. Peggy had never looked more tantalizing. The white tam shaded a face that was almost irresistible, and he was conscious of an insane desire to obey either old or new. It dries the behests of that capricious, curly with a beautiful luster, and head even though so doing might lead to the bottom of the lake. But another retains its brilliancy through look at the water and he withdrew to the foot of the tree opposite Peggr'-After lighting his pipe he studieu the wood. Besides Natural, boots with impassive face. Minute after minute went by, and the cold spring

ors. It is a stain and varnish "I'm just freezing to this old pine tree." thought Peggy, "but I just won't combined, and rejuvenates give in. Doesn't he look dear and tragic, though? I wouldn't have missed this row for anything. Rows do bring out the character so. Now, who would have thought that I could be so firm?" Little by little as the night settled down the wind sank, and as it sank a fine misting rain set in. Lake and shore, pines and sky slowly melted

By HONORE WILLSIE

Copyright, 1905, by Honore Willsie

piece of smoked glass. Along the shore the early green of the trees meited into the hazy gray of the sky. At the college pier the reflection of the pier posts wavered serenely from the reflected roof of the boathouse.

gy exclaimed as Jack handed her care "It does look squally," said Jack, tak-

ing up the oars; "the sky, I mean, not

"Pooh!" answered Peggy, curling her

Peggy raised her eyebrows. "Jack, what is the matter with you? Are you trying to be proud and haughty in an Every ounce of food you eat that old sweater? My child, please recall Kate Breck laughed lightly. "Why fails to digest does a pound of harm, that you had to be spanked into having of course," she answered, "of course It turns the entire meal into poison, your face washed. It is now, oh, Jack, exclaimed. "You haven't lost me-nor it was addressed to you. You will This not only deprives the blood of too late to make an impression on my

"And I," went on Peggy, ignoring the sudden development of courtesy in one who has pulled my hair and whose ears digestion, palpitation of the heart, etc. I have boxed both in sorrow and in anger makes me feel the necessity of reminding you that it is useless for you You heard nothing. Oh, if you are a I have the letter safe, and I'll get it RAILROAD RATES of TAMPA FAIR to fuss and put on airs, for you are

Peggy looked a little anxiously at the

Peggy looked up quickly, then smiled among the pines. The soft new needles wind was only a faraway sigh in the

Peggy could feel herself going white. "Jack," she gasped, "it's not a funny mittee. They are all seniors, and no one is so hard on a freshman as a sen-They ran to the shore. In the shelter of the pines they had not realized that light wind of the afternoon. The water was thick with whitecaps, and the wind tore across the lake as if determined to aid the house committee

"Jack Howard," replied Peggy, "you've got to."

"Peggy, you are not going to be drownnot go till the squall is over."

ders and eyed Jack with even greater

Jap-a-Lac comes in twelve coldusk came on.

into one gray green tone that gave

(Concluded on Fourth Page.)

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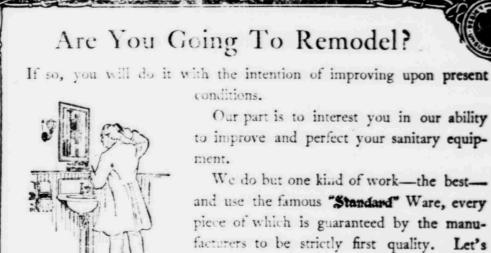
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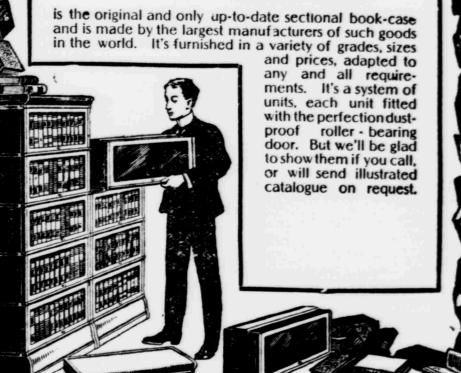
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